

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to skin a composition comprising a biguanide polymer, an antimicrobial metallic material which is substantially water-insoluble or can be rendered substantially water-insoluble by ~~chemical reaction with an alkali halide~~, and a carrier selected from the group consisting of a cream, a lotion, a deodorant, a spray, a gel, a wax, an oil, an ointment, a soap, and an alcohol, and

forming a moisture-resistant film on the skin, thereby imparting a persistent antimicrobial activity on the skin.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the biguanide polymer comprises poly(hexamethylenebiguanide), poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) hydrochloride, poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) gluconate, poly(hexamethylene-biguanide) stearate, or a derivative thereof.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the metallic material is silver or a silver compound.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the metallic material is silver nitrate.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the metallic material is silver iodide.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

66. (Original) The method of claim 65, wherein the substantially water-insoluble organic compound comprises a reactive member selected from the group consisting of carbodiimide, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, succinidyl ester, epoxide, carboxylic acid, acid chloride, acid halide, acid anhydride, succinidyl ether, aldehyde, ketone, sulfonyl chloride, sulfonyl halide, alkyl methane sulfonate, alkyl trifluoromethane sulfonate, alkyl paratoluene methane sulfonate and alkyl halide.

67. (Original) The method of claim 65, wherein the substantially water-insoluble organic compound is an epoxide selected from the group consisting of methylene-bis-N,N-diglycidylaniline, bisphenol-A-epichlorohydrin and N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidyloxyaniline.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the biguanide polymer comprises a chemical group capable of forming a covalent bond.

69. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the covalent bond can be generated at room temperature.

70. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the chemical group is selected from the group consisting of an amino group, a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, or a sulfhydryl group.

71. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the chemical group is selected from the group consisting of carbodiimide, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, succinimidyl ester, epoxide, carboxylic acid, acid chloride, acid halide, acid anhydride, succinimidyl ether, aldehyde, ketone, sulfonyl chloride, sulfonyl halide, alkyl methane sulfonate, alkyl trifluoromethane sulfonate, alkyl paratoluene methane sulfonate and alkyl halide.

72-88. (canceled)

89. (Currently Amended) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to skin a composition comprising (i) an organic polycationic polymer; (ii) an antimicrobial metallic material which is substantially water-insoluble or can be rendered substantially water-insoluble ~~by chemical reaction with an alkali halide~~, and (iii) a carrier selected from the group consisting of a cream, a lotion, a deodorant, a spray, a gel, a wax, an oil, an ointment, a soap, and an alcohol or a skin-compatible component selected from the group consisting of emollients, thickeners, humectants, skin moisturizing agents, and surfactants, and

forming a moisture-resistant film on the skin, thereby imparting a persistent antimicrobial activity on the skin.

90. (Canceled)

91. (Previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

92. (Currently Amended) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to skin a composition comprising, in a dermal antiseptic formulation, an organic polycationic polymer and an antimicrobial metallic material which is substantially water or can be rendered substantially water-insoluble ~~by chemical reaction with an alkali halide~~, and

forming a moisture-resistant film on the skin, thereby imparting a persistent antimicrobial activity on the skin,

wherein the dermal antiseptic formulation is selected from the group consisting of surgical scrub formulations, pre-operative skin preparations, healthcare personnel handwashes, antiseptic handwashes, antimicrobial soaps, antimicrobial creams, antimicrobial hand sanitizers, antimicrobial deodorants, antimicrobial lotions, and antimicrobial gels.

93. (Currently Amended) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to skin a composition comprising a biguanide polymer, an antimicrobial metallic material which is substantially water-insoluble or can be rendered substantially water-insoluble by chemical reaction with an alkali halide, and a skin-compatible component selected from the group consisting of emollients, thickeners, humectants, skin moisturizing agents, and surfactants, and

forming a moisture-resistant film on the skin, thereby imparting a persistent antimicrobial activity on the skin.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

95. (Canceled)

96. (Currently Amended) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to skin, by spreading or immersion, a composition comprising a biguanide polymer, an antimicrobial metallic material which is substantially water-insoluble or can be rendered substantially water-insoluble by chemical reaction with an alkali halide, and

forming a moisture-resistant film on the skin, thereby imparting a persistent antimicrobial activity on the skin.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

98. (Currently Amended) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to skin, by spreading or immersion, a composition comprising an organic polycationic polymer and an antimicrobial metallic material which is substantially water-insoluble or can be rendered substantially water-insoluble ~~by chemical reaction with an alkali halide~~, and

forming a moisture-resistant film on the skin, thereby imparting a persistent antimicrobial activity on the skin.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the film is sweat-resistant.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the film does not leach into a contacting aqueous solution.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal salt, a metal complex, a metal alloy, and combinations thereof.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the metallic material binds to cellular proteins of microorganisms and is toxic to microorganisms.

103. (Previously Presented)) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to skin a composition comprising a biguanide polymer; an antimicrobial metallic material which is substantially water-insoluble or can be rendered substantially water-insoluble, wherein the metallic material comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a silver, zinc, cadmium, lead, mercury, antimony, gold, aluminum, copper, platinum, and palladium; and a carrier selected from the group consisting of a cream, a lotion, a deodorant, a spray, a gel, a wax, an oil, an ointment, a soap, and an alcohol, and

forming a moisture-resistant film on the skin, thereby imparting a persistent antimicrobial activity on the skin.

104. (Previously Presented)) The method of claim 103, wherein the biguanide polymer is present as an adduct with a substantially water-insoluble organic compound.

105. (Previously Presented)) A method for providing antimicrobial activity on skin, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to skin a composition comprising

(i) an organic polycationic polymer;

(ii) an antimicrobial metallic material which is substantially water-insoluble or can be rendered substantially water-insoluble, wherein the metallic material comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a silver, zinc, cadmium, lead, mercury, antimony, gold, aluminum, copper, platinum, and palladium; and

(iii) a carrier selected from the group consisting of a cream, a lotion, a deodorant, a spray, a gel, a wax, an oil, an ointment, a soap, and an alcohol, or a skin-compatible component selected from the group consisting of emollients, thickeners, humectants, skin moisturizing agents, and surfactants, and

forming a moisture-resistant film on the skin, thereby imparting a persistent antimicrobial activity on the skin.

106. (Previously Presented)) The method of claim 105, wherein the organic polycationic polymer is a biguanide polymer.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 104, wherein the substantially water-insoluble organic compound comprises a reactive member selected from the group consisting of carbodiimide, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, succinidyl ester, epoxide, carboxylic acid, acid chloride, acid halide, acid anhydride, succinidyl ether, aldehyde, ketone, sulfonyl chloride, sulfonyl halide, alkyl methane sulfonate, alkyl trifluoromethane sulfonate, alkyl paratoluene methane sulfonate and alkyl halide.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 104, wherein the substantially water-insoluble organic compound is an epoxide selected from the group consisting of methylene-bis-N,N-diglycidylaniline, bisphenol-A-epichlorohydrin and N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidyoxyaniline.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the biguanide polymer comprises a chemical group capable of forming a covalent bond.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 117, wherein the covalent bond can be generated at room temperature.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 117, wherein the chemical group is selected from the group consisting of an amino group, a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, or a sulfhydryl group.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 117, wherein the chemical group is selected from the group consisting of carbodiimide, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, succinidyl ester, epoxide, carboxylic acid, acid chloride, acid halide, acid anhydride, succinidyl ether, aldehyde, ketone, sulfonyl chloride, sulfonyl halide, alkyl methane sulfonate, alkyl trifluoromethane sulfonate, alkyl paratoluene methane sulfonate and alkyl halide.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the film is sweat-resistant.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the film does not leach into a contacting aqueous solution.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the metallic material comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a silver, zinc, cadmium, lead, mercury, antimony, gold, aluminum, copper, platinum, and palladium, and is a metal, a metal salt, a metal complex, a metal alloy, or combinations thereof.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the metallic material binds to cellular proteins of microorganisms and is toxic to microorganisms.